

BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY

Library



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1957

ARTHUR LUCAS

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S, D.P.H.

BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1957

To The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Brackley.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1957.

The Vital Statistics for the Borough compare fairly favourably with those for the Country generally, except the infant mortality rate which is the highest recorded for the Borough for many years. There were no epidemics of infectious disease and the total number recorded is quite low.

Your obedient Servant,

Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,
D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

December 1959

Public Health Committee.

Councillor E.V.G.H.Wherrey, Chairman; Councillor E.A.Tutton, Vice Chairman, The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor R.J.Staniforth, Councillor L.S.Coles; Councillor G.C.Hodges, Councillor W.S.Pope, and Councillor R.T.Spreckley.

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health: Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Also holds appointments of:-
Medical Officer of Health, Brackley Rural District Council
Medical Officer of Health Towcester Rural District Council
Medical Officer of Health, Northampton Rural District Council
Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Northamptonshire County Council and Assistant School Medical Officer of Health Northamptonshire County Council.

Public Health Inspector: Clifford Morgan, C.R.S.H., who also holds the appointment of Borough Surveyor.

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1957

Area of Borough (acres)...	...	...	...	...	1,685
Population, estimated mid-year..	...	...	...	...	3,090
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1957	...	...	...	...	986
Rateable Value of Borough 1st October 1957	...	...	...	...	£28,717
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£118.

Extract from Vital Statistics for the Year

Live births:	Males	Females	Total	Eng. & Wales
Legitimate... ..	30	17	47	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			15.5	16.1

Still-births: One still-birth was recorded during the year; this is equivalent to a still-birth rate per 1,000 (live and still-births) of 20.4. The rate for the Administrative County is 18.80 and that for England and Wales, 23.4

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28944057>

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths (all causes)	21	23	44
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 14.2; Eng.& Wales 11.5			
Deaths from puerperal causes:-			
Puerperal sepsis... ..	...	...	nil
Other Puerperal causes ... ..	...	...	nil

Infant Mortality:

Deaths of infants under one year	3
This is equivalent to an infant mortality rate of 62.5.	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	5
Deaths from Measles..	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	nil
Deaths from Pregnancy, child-birth or abort ion	nil

Area: There was no change during the year in the administrative area of the Borough which remains at 1,685 acres.

Population: The resident mid-year population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar-General was 3,090 which is the same as the previous year, and vital statistics are based on this figure.

Deaths: The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General, after adjusting for inward and outward transferable deaths is 44. The death-rate calculated in the mid-year estimated population is 14.2 as compared with 10.97 for the administrative County of Northamptonshire and 11.5 for England and Wales.

A table giving a list of the causes of death in the Borough for the year under review classified under the various causes if given on page 3.

Births: The number of births which occurred in the Borough during the year was 48. This is equivalent to a birth-rate of 15.5. The rate for the administrative County was 17.03 and that for England and Wales, 16.1

Infant Mortality: Three infant deaths under one year of age were recorded during the year. The rate per 1,000 live births was 62.5 This rate is high and is the highest recorded for many years.

The following table gives the birth-rate, death-rate and infant-mortality rate for the Borough, the administrative County of Northamptonshire and England and Wales for the past five years:-

Year	Birth-rate			Death-rate			Infant Mortality Rate		
	Brackley Borough	Northampton shire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northampton shire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northampton shire	England & Wales
1953	17.0	16.16	15.50	10.20	11.51	11.40	nil	24.70	26.80
1954	17.1	16.20	15.20	12.80	11.04	11.30	58.8	23.49	25.50
1955	19.2	15.49	15.00	13.50	11.38	11.70	nil	20.79	24.90
1956	20.3	16.67	14.60	10.00	11.24	11.30	15.8	19.68	23.80
1957	15.5	17.03	16.10	14.20	10.97	11.5	62.5	22.53	23.0

Registered Causes of Death, 1957

Causes						Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
2	Tuberculosis, other forms,,,	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
4	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
5	Whooping Cough..	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
7	Acute Poliomyelitis...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
8	Measles...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases..	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
16	Diabetes..	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	3	6	9
18	Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	...	...	2	5	7
19	Hypertension with heart disease...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
20	Other heart disease...	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
21	Other circulatory disease...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
25	Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
30	Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion..	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
34	All other accidents...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
35	Suicide...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
36	Homicide and operations of War	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
All causes						21	23	44

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities: The examination of pathological specimens and samples of water is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford. The service is free and Medical Practitioners in the Borough submit pathological specimens direct to the laboratory.

Ambulance Facilities: Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are removed and treated at the Isolation Hospitals at Northampton or Oxford.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade continued to operate their Service during the year. The Service operates under contract with the Hospital Management Authority and was available for the removal to hospital of surgical and non-infectious cases. The service, which is available by day and night is free and is a great asset to residents of the Borough and surrounding area.

Treatment Centres and Clinics: The Infant Welfare Clinic continued to operate during the year and sessions were held on the second Thursday of every month at the Women's Institute, Manor Road. Orthopaedic Clinics, Vision Clinics and Dental Clinics for School Children which are organised by the County Council operated during the year under review. Preventive and after-care services for tuberculosis cases are administered by the County Council.

Nursing in the Home: The County Council operate a complete service within the Borough and "Home Helps" are available in connection with infirm or chronic cases treated at home. The "After-Care" Committee which was established during the year 1955, continued to operate, and a body of willing workers organised efforts to obtain funds, and collect clothing for distribution to those in need.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supply: The main supply of water for the Borough is from a deep well with a fifteen inch bore hole at the bottom. A submersible electric pump is used to raise the water to two storage tanks of 120,000 and 12,000 gallons capacity respectively. The water is chlorinated but not filtered and samples taken periodically and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination showed that it was of good bacterial purity.

Water from the supplementary main of the Bucks Water Board System was used during the year in order not to make undue demands in the Council's well and not unduly reduce the head level of the water in the bore-hole. No water was taken from the supplementary main during January February and March of the year under review and the total gallonage taken from this source during May to December was 3,571,210.

For a number of years I have stated that the storage capacity at the Waterworks represents approximately one day's consumption, and as the maximum gallonage which can be taken from the Bucks Supply is 60,000 gallons daily, the need for greater storage capacity at the Waterworks is felt when it is found necessary to change the submersible pump which is a fairly major operation.

Sewage Disposal: The sewage disposal works comprising two filter beds, two sedimentation tanks, humus lagoons and electrical plant for lifting the level of one outfall sewer continued to function fairly satisfactorily. Difficulty is experienced in treating increased volumes during heavy rains. With the exception of thirty-one houses in outlying parts of the district where levels will not permit connection with the system of sewers, all premises are connected to the sewerage.

Rivers and Streams: No complaints were received regarding pollution of the River Ouse into which the effluent from the sewage works discharges.

Camping Sites: There are not camping sites in the Borough.

Smoke Abatement: No action was found necessary in connection with smoke abatement.

Swimming Pool: The public swimming pool owned by the Council was used during the year and was filled with water from the Council's mains. Chloros is regularly added to the water in order to maintain a reasonable standard of purity, but it is not practicable to obtain a constant residual chlorine content in such a large volume of water as 60,000 gallons when the water is changed only three or four times during the season.

Eradication of Bed Bugs: No action was found necessary in connection with premises infested by bed bugs.

Public Cleansing: House refuse was collected weekly using direct labour and a "Bantam" Karrier refuse collecting vehicle fitted with sliding covers. One part of the Borough is covered on Thursdays and the other on Fridays. Refuse is disposed of by tipping within the Borough at a point where no nuisance is caused.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act: The provisions of this Act functioned during the year and a part-time operative is engaged. The service was free to all house premises but a charge was made for treatment at business premises. This method works satisfactorily and no major infestations occurred, as occupiers of business premises are glad to avail themselves of the service and householders readily report the presence of any rodents in and around the precincts of their homes. Warfarin with oatmeal baits is used and good results were obtained. Sewers were tested with sausage rusk but no take was observed. The number of premises inspected was as follows:-

Local Authority premises...	...	...	3
Dwelling houses	...	...	45
All other, including business premises			15
Agricultural premises	...	...	2
Total	...	...	65

The number of minor infestations found was 22 and these were treated with good results. The refuse tip and sewage disposal works were regularly tested.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Number of visits and inspections:-

Visits and inspections at slaughter-house...	...	...	154
Inspections of butchers' shops..	...	...	24
Number of old drainages tested..	...	...	6
Number of new drainages tested..	...	...	8
Inspections of bakehouses	...	...	10
Inspections of meat hawkers' vans	...	...	12
Housing inspections	...	...	125
Inspections of fried fish shops	...	...	16
Inspections of other food shops	...	...	40
Inspections in connection with rodent control	...	...	65
Inspections of factories and workshops	...	...	22

SECTION D

HOUSING

Slum Clearance: No action was taken during the year in connection with 21 houses which have been scheduled as unfit for human habitation. These were included in a statement submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1955 as being unfit for habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936. These houses are required to be demolished within a period of five years from the year when the statement was submitted to the Ministry.

No Council houses were erected during the year under review. The total number of Council houses built since the War is 204. The number of private enterprise houses completed during the year was 7 and there were 3 under construction at the end of the year.

Improvement Grants: Under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, owners of dwelling-houses may apply to the local authority for a grant towards providing additional amenities to their houses, such as the provision of constant hot-water, indoor sanitation, bathroom etc., and the local authority may subject to the submission of plans and competitive tenders for the work, give a grant towards the cost which may be up to fifty per cent of the total cost, subject to a maximum grant of £400. During the year under review five grants were made, a total cost of £787.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply The number of retailers in the Borough is 3 who hold supplementary licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested, Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised and Pasteurised Milk. All milk retailed in the Borough is produced outside the area

The Food Hygiene Regulations: These Regulations provide for the cleanliness of food premises, hygienic methods of handling food, the cleanliness of persons engaged in the food trade and the action to be taken when they suffer from or are carriers of certain infections. There are 24 shops in the Borough where food is sold served or prepared for sale. These were visited regularly to see that the provisions of the Regulations were being observed. Retailers continued to display notices requesting the public to refrain from taking dogs into their shops.

Meat. and Other Foods: The licenced slaughter-house continued to operate during the year. The numbers of animals slaughtered were as follows:-

Bovines...	...	...	...	301
Sheep and lambs	...	...	...	896
Pigs	...	...	...	523
Calves...	...	...	...	14

Regular visits were made to the slaughter-house and upon inspection meat and offal weighing 6 cwts 1 qr. 18 lbs were found to be diseased unfit for consumption and were voluntarily surrendered.

Diseased meat and offal were regularly collected by a reputable merchant for further utilisation.

SECTION F PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious disease were reported during the year:-

Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough..	...	...	...	14
Measles...	...	...	...	2
Dysentery.	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1

All patients made good recoveries with the exception of the case of pneumonia which terminated fatally.

Vaccination and Immunisation: The following details of vaccination and immunisation carried out during the year have been supplied by Dr. C.M.Smith, County Medical Officer of Health to whom I am indebted:-

<u>Vaccination:</u>	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2-4</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>15 & over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary...	30	2	14	5	5	56
Re-vaccination..	-	-	1	11	18	30

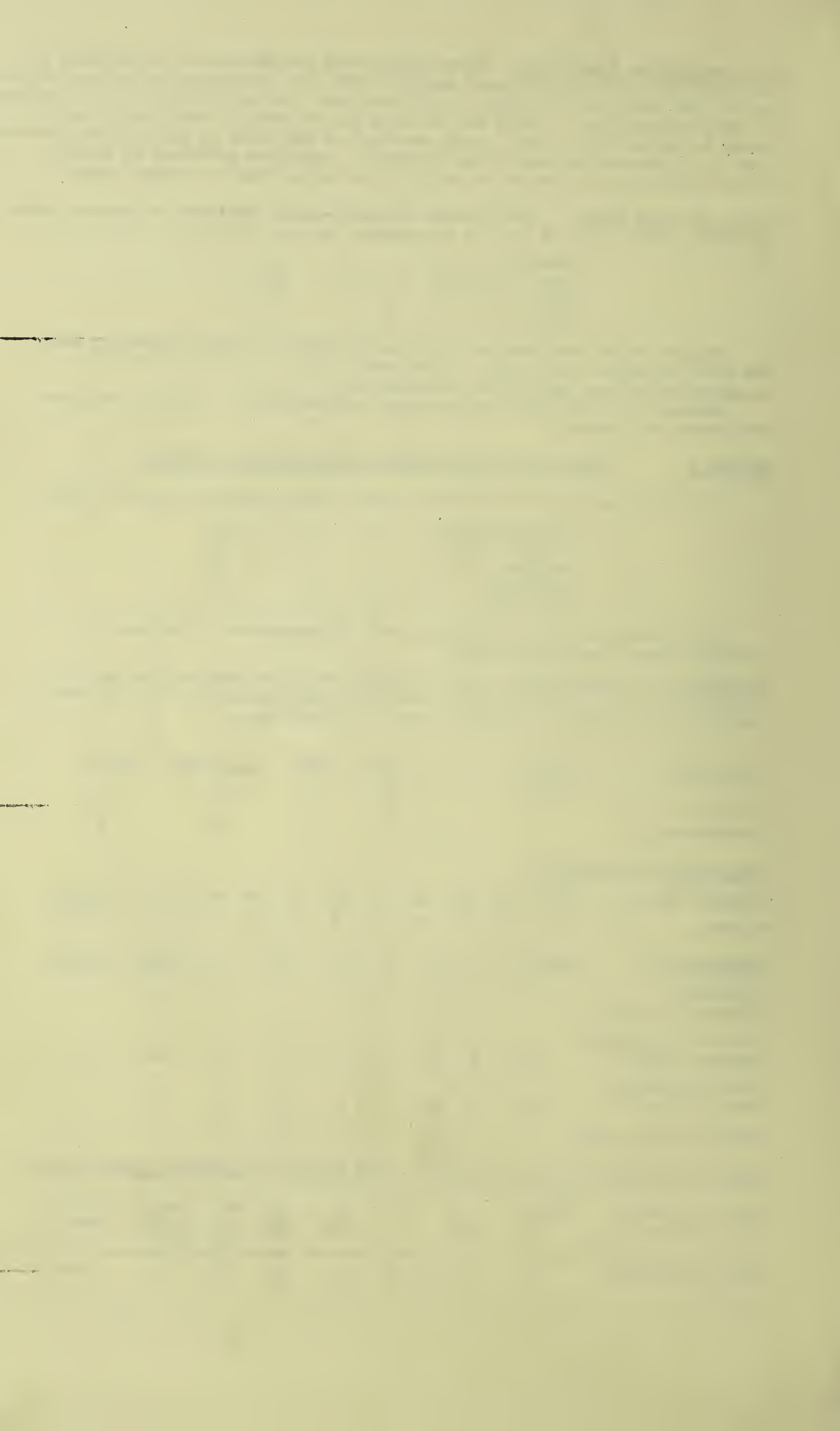
Polimyelitis Vaccination:

Children born in:	1957.	56.	55.	54.	53.	52.	51.	50.	49.	48.	47.	<u>Total</u>
Number...	-	1	1	7	12	8	14	21	12	27	21	124

<u>IMMUNISATION:</u>	<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>5-9.</u>	<u>10-14.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Booster</u>
Diphtheria									
Immunisation only:	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	5
Combined diphtheria									
Whooping Cough:	26	5	8	-	1	1	3	44	13
Total Diphtheria									
Immunisations:	26	5	8	-	1	2	5	47	18
Whooping Cough only:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number of children who have completed a full Course of Diphtheria Immunisation.

Age at 31.12.57	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>Total</u>
i.e. born in year:	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1948-1952	1943-1947	under 15
Number immunised:	3	34	39	37	26	185	143	467



Tuberculosis: There were no new cases of tuberculosis reported during the year. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified as having removed from the Borough. The numbers of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year were as follows:-

					<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary...	...	...	...	...	2	5	7
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Total	...	...	...	...	5	6	11

